

GEORGE M. SCHMIDT BLOCK
301-303 WEST SECOND STREET
DAVENPORT
SCOTT COUNTY
IOWA

HABS No. IA-131

HABS
IOWA,
82-DAVPO,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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George M. Schmidt Block/Del Rich Loan Building
301-303 W. 2nd Street
Original Town, Block 7, Lot 5
Owner: Delbert Schumacher
301 W. 2nd Street, Davenport, Iowa 52801

Description:

The George M. Schmidt Block is a three-story, corner commercial block. The structure is built of brick with stone and wood trim. Semi-circular brick arches with stone keystones appear on the 2nd and 3rd story window openings. The original multi-light sash have been replaced with single-pane double hung windows. Window openings in the single bay corner facade have been closed. The cornice, which contains heavy, decorative brackets, is an intact identifying feature. A major alteration to the block is the rebuilt first flood store front which abandoned the corner entrance and emphasized the horizontal rather than vertical feel of the building.

Significance:

Erected in c.1866, this building because of its size, architectural details, and key corner location is a relatively important building in the downtown streetscape. It is described in "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization on Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa," 1979, as the oldest remaining intact commercial building in the Victorian Italianate style. Other extant Italianate structures in the central business district (except for fragments of the Davenport National Bank Block, 1866-67) probably date from the 1870's.

From its construction, this building has contained the various uses typical of small scale downtown buildings - retail sales, office space and residential flats. Primary occupants through the years have included George M. Schmidt, dealer in boots and shoes, (1880-89); Staby, Berger and Snell, boots and shoes, (1890-1902); Security Savings Bank (1904-1924); and Scharfenberger meats, Askins Clothing Store and Day Dairy Store (1920 & 30s). None of these commercial establishments stand out as being particularly unusual or rare, large scale or broadbased. They are representative of the hundreds of retail and wholesale businesses that occupied downtown Davenport - the commercial hub of the Tri-Cities - from the 1870's to 1930's.

Sources:

1. "Central Turners, One Hundredth Anniversary," 1852-1952, Davenport, Iowa: Central Turners, 1952.
2. Davenport City Directories, 1856 to 1930.
3. History of Scott County, Iowa, Chicago: Interstate Publishing Co., 1882.
4. Huebinger Brothers, Album of Davenport and Vicinity, 1887.
5. Insurance Maps of Davenport, Iowa, New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1886, 1892, 1910, 1920, and 1930.
6. "New Buildings," Davenport Democrat, November 13, 1968, p.1
7. Oszucik, Phillipe, "A History of the Architecture and Urbanization of Nineteenth Century Davenport, Iowa." Dissertation, Univ. of Iowa, 1979.
8. Wilke, Franc B., Davenport Past and Present, Davenport: Publishing House of Luse, Lane & Co., 1858.

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